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PREPARED BY: CIA

14 November 1963

SUBJECT : Recent MAC(V)/CAS Discussions Concerning the Transfer
of Certain Programs

Summarized below are the discussions between MAC(V) and CAS Saigon regarding the possible transfer of certain CAS paramilitary and other programs to MAC(V) or joint MAC(V)/CAS control:

a. Border Surveillance

MAC(V) has agreed to assume responsibility for in-country border surveillance assets and programs to be effective on 26 October. As a result all in-country border surveillance assets would be transferred and absorbed into CIDG formations by 1 November.

U. S. Special Forces detachments at Khe Sanh, Kham Duc, Dak Pek and Dak To would revert to MAC(V) operational control on 1 November.

b. Mountain Scouts

The entire mountain scout program will be taken over by MAC(V) effective 31 October. All mountain scout units would be directed to report to the nearest CIDG formation in their localities.

c. Combat Intelligence (CI) Teams

A planning paper prepared by MAC(V) dated 23 August was discussed between MAC(V) and CAS. As of 31 October discussions concerning the transfer of CI teams were still underway. In the joint Embassy/MAC(V)/CAS message (Saigon 2441) sent to you today, it was stated that MAC(V) has the capability to absorb the CI teams (650 individuals operating in teams of approximately 18 men each) as a part of the CIDG strike forces and it was felt that this action would enhance U. S. management and control of these assets.

d. North Vietnam

There have been a number of discussions concerning MAC(V) participation in the North Vietnam operations program. There have been discussions in Washington and in the field concerning the establishment of a Joint Operations Center that would be staffed by both MAC(V) and CAS officers and these would together direct and manage a joint program in collaboration with

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the appropriate Vietnamese services. The joint Embassy/MAC(V)/CAS message sent to you today (Saigon 2439) describes two concepts for operations into North Vietnam for discussion at the forthcoming Honolulu conference. Under both concepts, it was stated that CAS should retain the direction and coordination of psychological warfare operations and deception under jointly conducted operations with the Vietnamese against North Vietnam.

e. Funding

Discussions have been held with the Comptroller of CAS concerning the funding, during FY 1964, of the border surveillance program and the mountain scout program after transfer to MAC(V). It has been agreed that [] should be earmarked for the border surveillance program and [] should be earmarked for the mountain scout program, and that these funds would be added to Operation Switchback funds for use by MAC(V) during FY 1964. No agreement has yet been reached for the funding of the above programs or the funding for the combat intelligence teams for FY 1965. This presumably will be discussed at the 20 November Honolulu conference.

For your information, it is estimated that as of 31 October CAS had spent [] for the border surveillance program and [] for the mountain scouts. Thus, these latter amounts would be subtracted from the larger figures listed above which represent total figures for FY 1964.

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